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LSU SHREVEPORT

January 25, 2001 *The Almagest* Volume 39, Number 1
You can plan a pretty picnic, but you can't predict the weather.

University task force recommends restructuring



by
Scott
Balcerzak

A major restructuring of the University, including the elimination of several majors, was recommended last week by the productivity and efficiency in academic programs task force.

During two meetings held last week, seven of the eleven special campus task forces appointed by Chancellor Marsala made public their recommendations for campus-wide

changes. "There has been a lot of good advice from these committees," said Michael T. Ferrell, vice chancellor of business affairs. "They're very well-thought out, but you also need to understand that everything still has to be approved by the appropriate channels."

The task forces were made up of faculty members who held campus hearings last October to address specific issues identified as areas of concern.

Recommendations concerning technology, faculty development and fund-

raising were presented during the Jan. 16 and 17 meetings.

During the second day of presentations, Dr. John Austin, chair of the productivity and efficiency in academic programs task force, presented recommendations that have already created controversy on campus. Austin commented during the presentation that many of the members of this task force had already heard angry responses by fellow faculty on some of the recommendations that had been leaked out. Among these suggestions, the restructuring

Continued on pg. 5

LSUS student charged with campus thefts



by
Matthew
Morris

An LSUS student has been charged in connection with a series of purse thefts at LSUS.

According to campus police, Lakesha Lott was arrested after being caught using credit cards of the women whose purses were

taken. Shreveport police detective Kevin Strickland said Lott was brought in for questioning after police reviewed surveillance tapes from local merchants who had been notified to look for the stolen cards.

Strickland said that Lott admitted to the purse thefts on campus as well as off-campus incidents. He said she is cooperating and wants to make restitution.

"I don't think she's a

bad person," Strickland said. "It takes a big person to admit doing something like this to the police."

Lott was charged with six counts of unauthorized use of an access card, a felony. According to campus police chief, Lt. Ronald E. Parker, the use of the credit cards is more serious than just stealing them. "An access card has no value until it is used," Parker said.

Lott was released on

Greek council roasts pig



by
J Willoughby

On Thursday Jan. 18, LSUS students lined up in the University Center to pack their bellies full of pork, veggie burgers and ice cream at the Greek Council's Pig Roast, which was set up to aid in their canned food drive.

Although the Greeks provided a vegetarian option, obviously the main course and focus of the pig roast was the pig.

Phi Delta Theta members Ryan Lanis, Ryan Osbon, Jimmy Terry, Mark Murrell and their canine mascot

"Theta," began their LSUS pig-roasting adventure on a Monday night when the fraternity brothers brought Terry's camper onto the mall area outside the U.C.

The area outside the camper was stocked with wood, provided by the Sigma Nu fraternity.

The pig, purchased from LA Agriculture, was put on the fire at 5 p.m. Tuesday evening; though the fun was not over yet as it was required that the guys stay every night while the pig was being

Continued on pg. 5

bond. "People make mistakes," Strickland said. "Hopefully they learn from their mistakes." University police worked with Shreveport police to track down the missing purses after a rash of reports, primarily from Bronson Hall.

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The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge (as the
9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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The Almagest Letters Policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study. Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed. *The Almagest* reserves the right to edit letters. □

The Almagest is a member of the Southeastern Journalism Conference, American College Press Association, and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association

From the editor

Welcome back!!! This week we here at The Almagest focused on illness and crime, two topics that every journalist will agree makes news.

This winter has been much colder than past winters and as a result, there seems to be an increase in the amount of sickness going around. Colds, viruses, bugs, and the flu have proliferated through-out the student body, and so we've included an article on common sense health tips to stay healthy and an article about the LSU Med-center and services it offers to people beyond the help of common sense. We hope this information will help make the cold season a little easier to bear.

We also have an abundance of crime to report in this issue. All of page 10 is crime reports. Most of the crime is theft, but there are some some

assaults and vandalism mixed in to keep it all interesting. My favorite report is the one about the apartment at the University Court Apartments that was bombed with condoms filled with oranges, pickles, mayon-aise, and unknown substances. It seems that some people have too much time on their hands.

Then again, some people don't seem to have enough cash on their hands. There was a string of thefts last semester and through a cooperative effort, the campus police and the Shreveport Police Department have apprehended a student that has confessed and offered to make restitution.

Most of these thefts could have been prevented. There is a myth that there is no crime on this campus and this myth has caused people to become careless. It's a sad but true fact that valuables

left unattended on this campus will disappear.

This Almagest is mostly a reminder of things people already know. If you feel ill, then see a doctor, get some rest, drink a lot of fluids, and don't come around here and get the rest of us sick. If you value your belongings, keep them with you, or lock them up someplace safe. These are things that we all know; however, we tend to forget them sometimes.

So let's try to start this semester off right without losing our minds or our valuables. A small amount of prevention is all that it takes to keep our sanity...until finals, that is.

Mark Rogers,
Editor-in-
Chief



Calendar of events

Thu Jan. 25

5-on-5 Basketball
entries due
SGA meeting,
10:30 a.m., UC

Fri Jan. 26

Sat Jan. 27

Sun Jan. 28

Mon Jan. 29

Last day to receive
60% refund for
dropped courses or
resignations

Tue Jan. 30

Resume writing
workshop, 10:30
a.m., UC
Society of Reason
Topic: "Hemp"
5:00 p.m., UC

Wed Jan. 31

Thu Feb. 1

SGA meeting,
10:30 a.m., UC
Interviewing work-
shop, 10:30 a.m.,
UC
5-on-5 basketball
play starts
New Almagest

Fri Feb. 2

SOC meeting,
noon, UC
Baseball: LSUS vs.
Northwood Univer-
sity, 2 p.m.

Sat Feb. 3

Baseball: LSUS vs.
Northwood Univer-
sity, 1 p.m.

Sun Feb. 4

Letter to the editor

Are we wasting our time?

There are many reasons that going back to school could be stressful. Having to wake up early and get to school, trying for an hour to find a parking spot and spending all that money just so we can enroll, have books and stress are just a few of the horrid realities of being a college student. Is the pursuit of higher learning so important that we must abuse ourselves financially, physically and mentally? No! There is a better way: Don't go to school.

What I am advocating is that everyone here at LSUS should get a full time job doing nothing and waste away in their homes (or cardboard box, if you wish) with a 40 oz and a bag of banana peels. That sounds much better than learning, socializing and getting a degree.

Why should the system tell us what to do?

The system says get a job to pay bills, get insurance to drive a car, watch TV and read newspapers to be informed and go to college so you can get a better job to make more money so you can pay more taxes and have more stuff so you can have more insurance to protect it against all the other people's stuff. Wow! That was a mouth full.

Don't listen to them! Fight back! If the majority of college students just gave up and sat on their asses who could stop us? Let us be the end of the system. Let us be the virus in this huge computer of a world.

You can act now and be an unproductive leech of society. Just make sure you take out that final student loan for as much as you can (for the beer and the bananas), don't pay bills, live on the campus, sleep on the benches and in the dumpsters (and cardboard boxes if you wish). This is the only way we can make it easier. We must act now. If we don't, we will be sucked into this thing they call society.

Fight off their desired reality and have a good semester.

Chris Alexander
Journalism

Mysterious viruses cause misery



by
Lana
Parshina

Winter is not a pleasant time of the year, even for those who live in the South. Cold wind penetrates your bones; long-lasting rain and ice storms never seem to end. Nature is dead, and nasty weather may make you feel depressed.

Many people are getting sick. We hear more coughs in public places and see fewer people at school or at work. LSUS isn't an exception. Many students are getting sick with the same symptoms: sore throat, stuffy nose, high body temperature, headache, fatigue. Typical flu symptoms, right? Maybe it's flu, but maybe not.

Dr. Martin Muggeridge,

associate professor at LSU Medical Center, who is studying influenza, said, "People who have same symptoms may have different virus."

If you are sneezing and cannot breathe normally because of a stuffy nose, your head is breaking into pieces, and you are trembling from cold because your body temperature is getting higher, you have caught a respiratory infection.

Is it influenza, or cold, or something else? You can find out only by going to the doctor and taking some tests. For instance, there is a special test you can take at LSUMC to determine if you have influenza A virus. A sore swap taken from you is mixed with some chemicals, and if the mix becomes purple you have influenza type A virus in your blood.

If you go to the doctor as soon as the first symptoms of illness appear, you have better chances to get a

prescription drug to fight the virus, not just relieve the symptoms that make you feel like hell.

If you wait two days, it's too late for the drug to make a difference.

A major mistake people make when they get sick is taking lots of drugs, especially antibiotics, without consulting their doctors. Dr. Muggeridge said, "For most viruses there are no antiviral drugs."

Only doctors can determine if drugs can help. Antibiotics, which we love to take to decrease temperature, don't work against viruses, but work against bacteria. What can really help your immune system fight against illness and stay healthy? Simple things we all know like eating healthy food con-

taining vitamins and minerals, avoiding stress and participating in sports.

And if you get sick, treat it more seriously. Don't play a hero and

come to school because you don't want to miss the class. Think about other people that can catch infection from you in school.

eHow College Basics: Fight the Flu

When the flu hits, be prepared with these simple steps.

Steps:

1. See your doctor: There are effective prescription drugs that can treat the flu if taken within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.
2. Sleep as much as you need to; let your body be your guide.
3. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water—at least eight glasses a day.
4. If you are having nausea and/or vomiting, avoid solid foods until the vomiting stops and you are able to hold down clear fluids.
5. Start off with chicken or vegetable broth and dry crackers once you feel like eating. These are both easy to digest.
6. Drink tea or herbal tea with honey to soothe a sore throat.
7. Take ibuprofen, aspirin or acetaminophen for fever, aches and pains if you are an adult. (Children should never use aspirin.)
8. Choose an appropriate over-the-counter cough syrup based on your symptoms.

* Tip:

- Keep in mind that multiple-ingredient medications may contain ingredients that counteract each other.

www.ehow.com

What is the LSUHSC-S?



by
Lacy
Stuart

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, known to most of us as LSU Medical Center, is a major part of Shreveport. Not only does it employ more workers than any other place in Shreveport, it is one of North Louisiana's largest employers. It has 4,052 full-time and 1,227 part-time employees. It provides care for, and develops care projects for our community.

LSUHSC-S is one of 120 institutions in the U.S. qualified for the designation of academic health sciences center. An academic health sciences center combines medical school, a Ph.D. program, degree programs in the allied health professions, and at least one teaching hospital. This helps LSUHSC-S to bring in more money to help patients, and employees.

In addition to bringing in more money, which happens to be a more than billion dollar economic impact in Louisiana, LSUHSC-S also gives back to the community through outreach programs in the Shreveport area. Faculty members have started special programs that benefit patients and the entire community.

A free clinic in the Ledbetter Heights neighborhood is one of the many programs Shreveport has, thanks to LSUHSC. It was begun by Dr. Robert

Jackson in an effort to bring medical care by volunteers to patients who were unable to travel from their downtown neighborhood to the LSUHSC. Another doctor, Dr. Terry Davis, and his colleagues, have pioneered nationally recognized work to identify low literacy among patients, which is a huge obstacle that keeps many patients who seek treatment from LSUHSC from participating in their own care because they are unable to understand doctor's orders, or they are unable to comprehend written instructions on medicine labels.

Also, in the Shreveport community, faculty and staff invest themselves in the community through public service projects such as judging science fairs, tutoring in math and science, and advocating smoking prevention among teens as well as adults. LSUHSC-S also addresses the needs of its employees. Project Care is an internal educational program that offers employees opportunities to improve their job and educational skills by enhancing their math, reading, writing, and communications skills for workplace situations. With all of this said, what does LSUHSC-S do? Who do they do it for?

they do it for?

First of all, LSUHSC is one of the busiest and most cost effective hospitals of the nation's teaching hospitals. They have 432 adult and pediatric beds, and 25 for newborn babies in a nursery. The annual inpatient admissions stay right around 20,000 per year. This is just the beginning, though. LSUHSC-S recorded more than 413,000 outpatient visits for last year, due partially to the great level of patient care services provided through the hospital's extensive outpatient program. On top of this, patients in need of emergency care often come straight to, or are transferred to, LSU Hospital to get specialized care that is unavailable anywhere else in the region. With all of these people come different types of budgets, and also a large bill for LSU Hospital.

LSUHSC-S is widely recognized throughout Louisiana as a model public hospital. No other agency pays its own way like the LSUHSC-S. State tax dollars make up only a fraction of this year's \$251.9 million dollar budget. Most of the budget is based on income earned by the LSU Hospital in Shreveport. But with

Shreveport. But with declining federal reimbursements for patient care it is impossible for the hospital to continue earning enough to support the entire LSUHSC-S.

Patients cared for at LSUHSC-S come from all different financial situations in Shreveport, and for this reason, LSUHSC-S receives many different types of financing for the care they give. The Patient Mix, as of June 30, 2000 showed the following percentages that make up the financing for LSUHSC-S patients: Medicare - 15.1%; Medicaid - 32.2%; Commercial Insurance - 12.7%; Self-Pay - 3.6%; and Free Care - 36.4%.

As shown here, the vast majority of patients seen receive free care. "The percentages stay pretty much the same, and as you can see much of it is free care," said Elaine King, the Public Relations person for LSUHSC-S. These patient bills are paid by tax dollars and donations given to the hospital.

"I work in the Cancer Center at LSU Hospital, and it's not pretty. It's sad what's happening to these people, and they wouldn't normally be able to afford care like this. They are getting top-notch doctors at no cost to them," said Will

Wissman, a student worker at LSUHSC-S.

Of course, in order to receive free care a person has to fill the requirements. The basic requirement is that the person needs the care, and has absolutely no way of paying for it. Others have gone through government programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, to get care, and some just pay for it themselves. There are no age requirements, just financial ones.

Other special clinical facilities and services at LSUHSC-S include: a burn center, trauma center, viral diseases clinic, rehabilitation services, neonatal intensive care unit, interventional radiology, bone marrow transplantation, fetal medicine, cardiac catheterization special procedures, kidney health care program and so on.

LSUHSC-S provides something for everybody who needs care. "The doctors here are wonderful, and I trust them and use them with my family members," said Zelda Timmons, a secretary at LSUHSC-S. People of all different walks of life are given proper care here. LSUHSC-S doesn't know how to say "No."

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SOC nominates new V.P.



by
Matthew
Morris

The Student Organizations Council (SOC) nominated a new vice president after Brad Weatherly had to resign because of a job conflict. At a meeting held on Jan. 19, Jason Pettite was nominated for the

position.

The vice president of SOC is responsible for running meetings when the president cannot attend and for running the committee to select organization of the year. Nominations are open until the Feb. 2 meeting.

The SOC also had two guest speakers. Chris Greer, admissions counselor, spoke to encourage organizations to participate

in the Preview program for high school seniors. During this preview, which will take place in March, prospective students get a taste of life at LSUS. Greer spoke about how important it is to let these students know what organizations are available so that if they choose to attend LSUS they will get more involved.

Erica Gonzalez, marketing coordinator for the

office of student activities, spoke to the SOC delegates about how they can better advertise their organizations' events. She provided ideas including media contacts, a guide to writing press releases. She spoke about creating a webpage for organizations and an idea that student activities is working on called the bathroom journal. The bathroom journal would be a newsletter posted on the

inside of bathroom stalls and over urinals so that bathroom patrons can be kept informed of campus events.

During the meeting the SOC approved the initiation of the Master of Sciences of Human Services Administration organization.

The next SOC meeting is on Friday, Feb. 2 at noon in the Webster room of the UC.

Restructuring recommendations

Continued from pg. 1

ing of academic units figured prominently.

Suggestions included combining the three Business departments into two, the three Education departments into two, the four Liberal Arts departments into two, and the four Science departments into two. There was also the proposal of combining the four colleges on campus into two. All of this would supposedly create a savings of about \$150,000 per year.

The task force also suggested closing down the following majors: Communications-Speech, Geography, Physics, Mathematics, Education-Speech and Hearing, Computer Science, French, and Spanish. Most of these majors were suggested to be discontinued over a two to three year period. Also suggested for discontinuation was the need for full-time German, Russian, and Japanese faculty. It was felt

these courses should be offered on an "as-needed" basis and taught by part-time faculty.

There was also the suggestion of moving the Speech Pathology degree from the Communications department on campus to the School of Allied Health. Austin commented that due to the large number of projected retirements by faculty in the next few years, the discontinuation of these majors would not create any layoffs on campus.

Dr. Merrell Knighten, chair of the new academic program development task force, also gave his report during the Jan 17 meeting. Among his committee's suggestions were the establishment of postgraduate degrees in Experimental and Pre-Clinical Psychology, English Education, and Health Care Administration. They also suggested the establishment of bachelor's degrees in Spanish Education, Dental Hygiene, Applied Graphic Arts, and

Applied Information Technology (the latter two would be concentrations in the General Studies program).

Expansions in the Hospitality concentration in Marketing and the career enhancement programs on campus were also suggested. There was also the expressed need for onsite international student and overseas residence programs.

During the meeting on Jan. 23, the following task forces offered their recommendations: Community Relations, Student Retention, Student Recruitment, and Marketing & Image of the University. The full text of all the recommendations will be provided this week by the University Planning Committee.

The recommendations will be taken under serious consideration for future changes in policy and in the restructuring of departments at LSUS. The task forces developed a total of 175 recommendations.

Greek pig roast

Continued from pg. 1

roasted to insure proper cooking and control of the fire.

The pig's head and feet were removed, and the torso cut into pieces prior to roasting so that it did not resemble the animal itself, so no one would be offended. This is different from a traditional roast which usually leaves the pig intact and run on a spit with fruit in its mouth.

The pork had to be cooked until it reached 170 degrees Fahrenheit, which took until 8:30

a.m., Thursday.

The resulting feast was delicious and plentiful, and even included an ice cream dessert provided by the Phi Mu and Zeta Tau Alpha sororities.

The can drive was also a success thanks in part to a large donation made by the Phi Mu sorority.

Events like this help not only fraternity and sorority members, but also all students, by providing more on-campus activities.



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Problem from Hell



Twin primes* are pairs of primes differing by 2, such as 17 and 19, or 29 and 31. Pick any two twin pairs greater than 3 and 5. Multiply them and add 1 to their product. Prove that the result is always a perfect square and is always divisible by 36.

*The only divisors of a prime number are 1 and the number itself.

Please submit your answers in writing to Dr. Vekovius in Science 104, or on the internet to vekovius@pilot.lsus.edu. Indulgences will be granted for correct answers. Others plan to take an air conditioner....

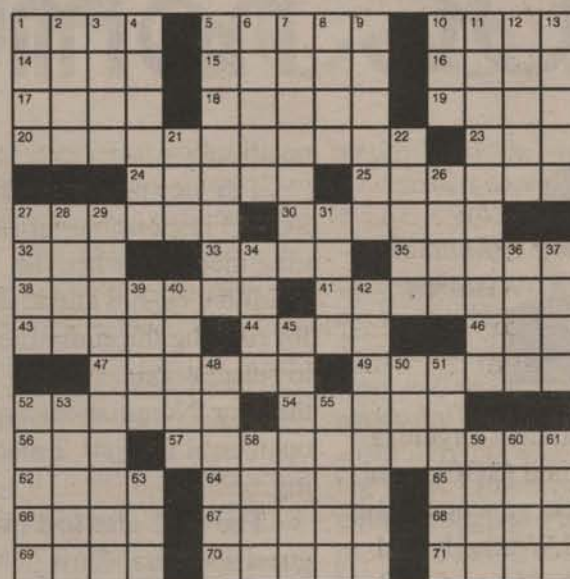
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Jolly old salts
- 5 Heroic tales
- 10 Part of a process
- 14 Oversupply
- 15 Great lake
- 16 First victim
- 17 Conception
- 18 Former name of Guam's capital
- 19 Skin opening
- 20 Gold rushers?
- 23 Ms. Peeples
- 24 Incited
- 25 Acted as toastmaster
- 27 Interlock anew
- 30 Downy ducks
- 32 Writer Levin
- 33 Prayer ending
- 35 Fired
- 38 Memory loss
- 41 Soybean kernel
- 43 Preminger film
- 44 Mark ___-Baker
- 46 Santa ___, CA
- 47 Critic Leonard
- 49 Ankara's land
- 52 German emperor
- 54 Shorthand, for short
- 56 Well-honed skill
- 57 60s hit by Ernie K-Doe
- 62 Pocket bread
- 64 Master
- 65 Opera set in Egypt
- 66 Manipulates
- 67 Backslide
- 68 Welsh symbol
- 69 Turner and Knight
- 70 Ice fall
- 71 Sand rise

DOWN

- 1 "The work week is over!"
- 2 Ray of "Battle Cry"
- 3 One with regrets
- 4 "David" or "The Thinker"
- 5 China's largest city
- 6 Bellow's March
- 7 Portuguese nobleman
- 8 First-rate
- 9 Entrapped
- 10 Blackjack
- 11 Red meat choice
- 12 Unearthly
- 13 Argue a case
- 21 Mos. and mos.
- 22 Give off an odor
- 26 Arcing street abbr.
- 27 Iranian currency
- 28 Ms. Bombeck
- 29 Freed from slavery
- 31 Party to
- 34 Landlocked African nation
- 36 Chromosome unit
- 37 Singer Anita
- 39 Periods
- 40 Oregon capital
- 42 Surfing site?
- 45 Fit



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1/25/01

Solutions



- 48 Fairy-tale beasts
- 50 Cycle or sex lead-in
- 51 Reagan or MacDonald
- 52 Inoperative
- 53 Originate
- 55 Short and to the point
- 58 Bluish green
- 59 In ___ of
- 60 Arabian gulf
- 61 "Finnegan's ___"
- 63 Nincompoop



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LSUS campus police blotter

November 28

11:07 a.m. A woman reported her wallet missing after leaving it in a room in Bronson Hall. Campus police searched the restrooms and could not find anything. This case was cleared by the arrest of Lakesha Lott.

November 29

12:20 p.m. A biology textbook was reported stolen after a young woman left it on a chair in the first floor of the UC. She returned to find it missing about 30 minutes later. She went to the bookstore and found that someone had just sold the book back to the bookstore and received ten dollars for it.

November 30

9:32 a.m. Police were called to the UC apartments when a woman reported that she had been assaulted with a hammer. The woman said she was slightly injured when another woman threw a carpenter's claw hammer at her. According to the report, the suspect had entered the apartment complex to find her boyfriend, who she suspected was cheating on her. She found his car and reportedly considered breaking the windows of it when she decided instead to confront him. She began beating on the apartment door and threatening the inhabitants. Her boyfriend had spent the night with the woman occupying the apartment. He apparently tried to separate the two women when the hammer flew out of the suspect's hand and struck the resident. Both the suspect and the man involved have been banned from the UCA and face possible disciplinary action, according to the report.

December 3

7:05 a.m. A woman reported her car stolen from UCA. Investigation found that the woman suspected a man of taking her car, several CDs, the keys to her apartment and other items. She told police that he might have been in her apartment at the time of the investigation, but police searched with no results. She filed charges with the SPD. University police searched the area with no results. The car was later returned; her boyfriend had taken it.

December 4

9:30 a.m. A woman reported her purse stolen from Bronson Hall. She left it in a desk drawer and later found it missing. It contained several credit cards, some cash, two checks and other items. Police searched trashcans and found nothing. Police reviewed tapes of local merchants to look for evidence of the cards being used. This case was cleared with the arrest of Lakesha Lott.

December 4

2:00 p.m. A professor in Bronson Hall reported that her wallet was missing. She had already reported it to SPD but thought the wallet may have been stolen at school. It contained several credit cards, some of which had already been used. This case was cleared with the arrest of Lakesha Lott.

December 18

9:08 p.m. A CA at the University Court Apartments called the LSUS police to report that a vehicle had been vandalized. A man reported that he had been driving in the parking lot when a woman who he had dated but whose name he had forgotten threw a bottle at his car as she was driving by. He attempted to block her escape by the exit gate but she left through the entrance at a high speed. Investigation could find no visible damage on the man's vehicle.

December 22

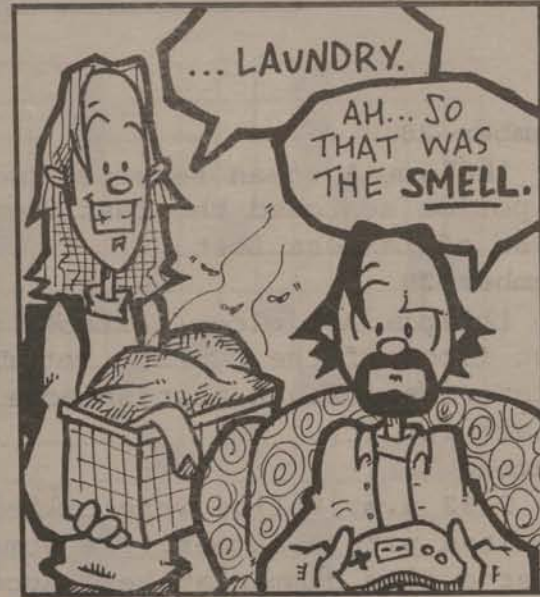
6:00 p.m. Campus police responded to a report from a woman at the UCA saying that her apartment was vandalized. Police found that someone had thrown spoiled oranges and condoms filled with pickles, mustard and "unknown" substances on her patio. The suspects had defaced her door the previous night. She was advised to report any future suspicious activity to the campus police.

December 27

6:20 a.m. University police responded to a noise complaint at the UCA. A female resident of the complex had apparently had visitors all night long who had made excessive noise. She was advised to keep the noise level down in the future.

January 15, 2001

1:30 a.m. Campus police investigated a disturbance at UCA, again. A young woman reported that an egg had been thrown at her apartment and threats been made by someone she had had problems with before. She was advised to call LSUS police if the person returned.



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BY RANDY REGIER



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